



PRESIDENTS REPORT - 2023

The hospitality and entertainment sector has faced significant and ongoing challenges in the past year. Recovering from the lockdowns of two years ago, rising interest rates and difficulty in attracting and retaining staff have presented problems that all businesses needed to address. On top of this, governments at all levels seem to be determined to enact policies, the end result of which is to drive the local club out of business. We have all seen the campaigns. Everyone who places a bet or uses a gaming machine is now either a “problem gambler” or a “money launderer” yet the big end of town, the mega-Clubs and casinos who undoubtedly benefit from these people are raking in the profits. The issue cuts at the heart of our society. We now have governments telling us what to do and unfairly labelling people who choose to exercise their own freedom of choice in their entertainment options. Nevertheless, Mortdale RSL and Community Club is far from down and out.

Nothing could better illustrate this than the Georges River Council meeting in October which saw a united and impassioned membership turn up in great numbers to support the leaders of the licensed Club, the RSL Sub-Branch and ordinary members as they addressed the meeting. In what we hope is a turning of the tide, the council voted in favour of an amendment which goes some way assisting the Club in redeveloping the site for the future. It also showed that our united membership can defeat a vocal and ill-informed minority who use social media to portray your Directors as “greedy property developers”.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to report that the Club posted a reasonable pre-tax and depreciation profit of \$ 141,357. This enabled the Club to continue to reduce its debts and secure its ongoing viability. Maintenance issues with the aging buildings continue to soak up cash for repairs. It is obvious that much more should have been done when the last renovation occurred in 2007, particularly in regard to the roof drainage. That aside, Tony and the hardworking staff of the Club have shown great determination to keep the business making a cash profit. I would also like to note that one of our longest serving staff members, Jackie Giblett left the Club to take up a new opportunity in 2023. Jackie was a loyal servant of the Club and its members, and we wish her well in her new position.

In the upcoming Annual General Meeting, the current Board will seek reindorsement from the members in the biennial election. The Board continues to work with management to ensure the short-term future of the business but, at the same time, we must plan for a new Club in the medium-longer term as this is the key to a sustainable future. I urge all members to attend the Annual General Meeting and to vote should an election be required. Only a matter of weeks after the AGM, Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch will host the annual ANZAC Dawn Service at 6am on 25th April in the Memorial Park on Boundary Rd., Mortdale. This year, ANZAC Day will occur in the school holidays, and I hope to see a large number of young families in attendance at the service and afterwards at the Club. This is an opportunity to remember that our Club has deep roots in those who served and to commemorate and remember that they gave us what we have today.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the members who continue to support the Club. You are our life blood, and it is your continued patronage which keeps Mortdale RSL and Community Club alive.

Geoff Denyer,

Geoff Denyer
President.